

REMARKS

Claims 41-62 were pending in the application. Claims 41-59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being deemed unpatentable in view of Innis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,832), Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,347), Popelka (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,883), Nazari (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,201), and Mattis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,627). Claims 41-62 have been canceled and new Claims 63-84 have been added. Of the Claims, Claims 63, 73 and 83 are independent. The application as amended and argued herein, is believed to overcome the rejections.

Regarding Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 41-42 and 48-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Innis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,832) in view of Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,347).

Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Innis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,832) in view of Wilson, and further in view of Nazari (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,201).

Claims 44-47 and 56-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Innis et al. in view of Wilson, and further in view of Popelka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,883).

Claims 60-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Innis et al. in view of Wilson, and further in view of Mattis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,627).

Applicants have canceled these claims, rendering rejection of these claims moot. Applicants present herein claims 63-84. Applicants submit that these new claims include elements not disclosed in the cited references, and are thus patentable over the cited references.

Turning to the cited references, Innis discusses a data processing network in which access to a distributed resource is fully transparent to the user. As shown in Fig. 2, a client communicates directly only with one server with other servers exporting storage space to that server. The server redirects to another server based on an access list. A LAN command is translated to a file access system command at a network level such that the client can access files as if they were resident on the client

Wilson discusses a system for maintaining coherence among copies of a database shared by multiple computers with data stored in storage subsystems. (See Wilson Fig. 3 and Abstract.)

Nazari discusses a distributed computer system that includes fault tolerant servers.

Popelka discusses a scalable file server that includes a host processor, network processors and file storage processors that communicate over an interconnect bus. Client computers are connected over a network to one or more network processors. File requests received by a network processor from client computers are forwarded for processing over the interconnect bus to file storage processors. (See Popelka, Fig. 1.)

Mattis discusses a method for detecting duplicate objects that have the same content but different names. An object key based on the contents of the object is used to index the cache. (See Mattis, col. 9, lines 24-28.)

The references when combined do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Innis' discussion of a data processing network does not teach or suggest at least:

“the client receives a storage resource locator (“SRL”) from the VFS to access a file in the single file system ... the client of the network storage system transmits the received SRL to one of the storage centers over the public access network to download the file over the wide area, public access network”

as claimed by the Applicants in claim 63. In contrast, Innis merely discusses that a client communicates directly with only one server so that the user does not need detailed knowledge of the network.

Furthermore, Innis does not teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed “SRL” which:

“includes a public access network address for a storage center to access one of the storage centers over the wide area, public access network and a unique identifier associated with the contents of the file to uniquely identify a file stored at one of the storage centers.”

as claimed by the Applicants in claim 63.

In contrast, in the system discussed by Innis, files stored in other servers are mounted on the single server so that all files are accessible by the client through the single server. As the client communicates directly only with a server over a LAN, there is no suggestion of a “public

access network address for a storage center to access one of the storage centers over the wide area, public access network” to uniquely identify the file stored at one of the storage centers.

The additional references Wilson, Popelka, Nazari and Mattis fail to cure the deficiencies of Innis noted above. The additional references Wilson, Popelka, Nazari and Mattis fail to disclose or suggest at least “a file identifier associated with the contents of the file” and so fail to disclose the invention as recited in claim 63.

Claims 64-72 are dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on claim 63 which has already been shown to be non-obvious over the cited art.

Furthermore, Mattis does not teach or suggest “a file handler including a digital fingerprint derived from the contents of the file” as claimed by the Applicants in dependent claim 72. In contrast, Mattis merely discusses using contents of a file for storing an object in a cache so that only one copy of duplicate objects having different names is stored in the cache. There is no suggestion of “including a digital fingerprint derived from the contents of the file” in a network file system request “to identify the file to the remote storage”.

Therefore, separately or in combination, Innis, Wilson, Popelka, Nazari and Mattis do not teach or suggest the Applicants’ claimed invention

Claims 64-72 are dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on claim 63, which has been shown to be non-obvious over the cited art. Independent claims 73 and 83 recite a like distinction and are thus non-obvious over the cited art. Claims 74-82 depend directly or indirectly on claim 73 and are thus non-obvious over the cited references.

Accordingly, the present invention as now claimed is believed to be patentable over the cited references. Acceptance of claims 63-84 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

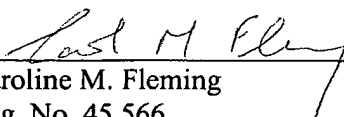
Applicants are herewith submitting an IDS. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider and make of record in the subject application the information cited in this IDS.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims (claims 63-84) are in condition of allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to Deposit Account Number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/1/06



Caroline M. Fleming
Reg. No. 45,566
Telephone No. (978) 553-7371